



TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL

OFFICIAL WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

FOR OCTOBER 14, 2024

PRESENT: Council President Valerie Pratt, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Maria Reyes, Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Christen Sacco, Councilor Octavio Gonzalez (joined at 5:17 p.m.)

ABSENT: Mayor Frank Bubenik

Council President Pratt called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. *Water Management & Conservation Plan*

Public Works Management Intern Jake Hush and Management Analyst Lindsay Marshall presented the Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP). Intern Hush explained that the WMCP is an integrated resource management plan required for water suppliers. It describes the city's water system, identifies its current and future needs, outlines water sources, and provides a framework for management and conservation efforts. The plan is part of the city's contract with the Portland Water Bureau and establishes a strategic framework for the efficient and sustainable use of Tualatin's water resources.

Intern Hush explained that each section of the WMCP includes an overview of past and current water conservation measures, as well as descriptions of conservation benchmarks for the next five years. He outlined the basic requirements of the plan, which include conducting annual water audits, maintaining system-wide metering, ensuring meter testing and maintenance, implementing a rate structure that charges customers based on water usage, maintaining a leak detection program, and providing public education about water conservation.

Management Analyst Lindsay Marshall presented possible enhanced measures for the plan, which could include offering technical and financial assistance programs to customers, replacing inefficient water fixtures, adopting a rate structure focused on conservation, and exploring opportunities for water reuse, recycling, and non-potable water usage.

Intern Hush requested feedback from the Council on the proposed plan.

Councilor Brooks mentioned that the Tualatin Water Conservation District and the Bee City Society have valuable resources, and she would like to see those incorporated into the city's plan. She expressed support for exploring the expansion of the purple pipeline, which could enhance water reuse efforts.

Councilor Sacco voiced her approval of drought-resistant landscaping and inquired about the water loss percentage and how it occurs. Analyst Marshall explained that the loss percentage relates to leaking or unauthorized water usage, noting that the system allows for up to 10% loss.

Councilor Hillier emphasized the importance of incorporating water conservation education in elementary schools to foster awareness from a young age.

Councilor Brooks asked where industrial water usage fits into the plan, as it currently focuses on residential use. Analyst Marshall responded that staff is working on setting goals for industrial usage, which they hope to include in the next iteration of the plan.

Councilor Brooks asked about potential incentives with current contract rates. Intern Hush explained that the current contract incentivizes reduced water usage by averaging reductions over five years, which will influence the determination of future contract rates.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed his encouragement about the city's implementation of the plan. He suggested further exploring updates to the development code to include tools like watering controllers, sprinklers that promote conservation, and specific planting practices.

Council President Pratt echoed the interest in code changes aimed at promoting more sustainable planting practices.

2. Parks Projects Update

Parks Planning and Development Manager Rich Mueller and Project Manager Kira Hein provided an update on the parks and trails bond. Manager Mueller gave a brief overview of the bond projects, while Manager Hein detailed a list of completed projects. These include the Tualatin River Greenway Trail extension, playground upgrades, and the addition of field lights at the Tualatin Community Park Athletic fields.

Manager Hein shared several projects currently in progress. These include the Nyberg Creek Trail connection, new river access, athletic field improvements, and upgrades to the Tualatin Veteran's Plaza. She further shared information on recent utility fee projects such as the rehabilitation of the Ki-a-Kuts bridge, the completion of the Parks and Recreation Facility Assessment, shelter post replacement at the Tualatin Community Park Picnic Shelter, replacement of stairs at the Victoria Woods Trail, and trail renovations at Little Woodrose. Manager Hein also provided updates on projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, which include the Las Casitas Park and the Basalt Creek Flagpole lot.

Councilor Brooks expressed excitement about the projects underway and the investments being made in the city. She asked about the possibility of involving the community in the signage process for Las Casitas Park. Manager Mueller responded that the signage design is still being worked on, and they could explore a community process for its development.

Councilor Sacco inquired if there are plans to put up signage at Veteran's Plaza during the Pumpkin Regatta to inform people that the site is still under construction. Manager Hein confirmed that there will be "under construction" signs during the event.

Councilor Gonzalez asked if this update will be shared with the Community Involvement Organizations (CIOs). Manager Hein said they would be happy to share the update if the CIOs are interested.

Council President Pratt inquired about the completion date for Veteran's Plaza. Manager Hein stated that the project is expected to be completed by May 2025.

3. Opioid Settlements Update

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Don Hudson and Police Chief Greg Pickering provided an update on the opioid settlement. Manager Hudson reported on the current status of the settlement, stating that there are eight ongoing settlements with payments received so far totaling \$156,107.95. The funding stream is expected to continue until 2038, with a total projected amount of \$350,133.47.

Chief Pickering discussed strategies and approved uses for the funds. He explained that the settlement outlines core strategies, focusing on treatment, prevention, and local-level initiatives, including education and training. Manager Hudson mentioned potential uses for the settlement funds, such as accruing the funds for future use and highlighting proposed expenditures during the annual budget process. He acknowledged that there are many unknowns regionally, with “moving parts” in the funding structure that create uncertainties. He added that potential programs in Tualatin could include a Deflection Program, the provision of Narcan for first responders, and additional funding or expansion of the current Outside Agency Grants.

Councilor Brooks asked what the future of services will look like in Tualatin, including potential changes at the local hospital and their service adjustments. She inquired if there is room for enhanced services within the police department and better access to liaisons so people can get treatment when needed. She emphasized the importance of the city exploring all options as they move forward.

Councilor Reyes inquired if there were any available funds to support local law enforcement in coping with the stress of the opioid crisis. Chief Pickering responded that while the settlement allows for the support of officers, the city does not currently have any specific plans for that.

Councilor Gonzalez asked if the funds could be used to assist or bolster existing organizations instead of creating new programs. Manager Hudson confirmed that this would be part of the analysis when it comes time to allocate the funds.

Councilor Hillier asked what data had been collected regarding the use of Narcan in the city. Chief Pickering noted that Narcan deployments across the county are high.

Councilor Hillier also asked which programs the city is currently considering. Manager Hudson stated they are in the early stages of program evaluation and will be relying on county data to inform decisions.

Councilor Hillier encouraged collaboration with regional partners to amplify the impact of the funds, suggesting that Tualatin take the lead in making a meaningful impact.

Council President Pratt asked for more information on the Deflection Program. Chief Pickering explained that it is being piloted through the county, where a responder is dispatched to the scene to help individuals through the treatment and recovery process.

Councilor Hillier suggested exploring the option of hiring a consultant to evaluate program opportunities. Manager Hudson stated that staff could investigate this further and look into partnerships with neighboring cities and organizations.

The Council reached consensus to proceed with exploring consultant options to evaluate program opportunities.

4. Council Meeting Agenda Review, Communications & Roundtable

Councilor Sacco stated she attended the Willamette River Water Coalition meeting.

Councilor Hillier stated she attended the TVF&R Community Academy and the Architectural Review Board meeting.

Councilor Gonzalez stated he attended the Washington County Coordinating Committee meeting.

Councilor Brooks stated she attended the Barriers and Solutions to Housing Forum, the Regional Water Consortiums meeting, the Policy Advisory Board meeting, and the Tualatin Riverkeepers Awards Benefit.

Council President Pratt stated she attended the Greater Portland Inc. Summit, the Joint Committee on Transportation Roundtable, the C4 meeting, the Region One ACT meeting, the Community Advisory Committee for the Transportation Plan, and the Martinazzi Woods CIO meeting.

Adjournment

Council President Pratt adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor